



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
District of New Hampshire*

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MEDIA RELEASE

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PROJECT SAFE NEIGHBORHOODS

NASHUA MAN CONVICTED OF FEDERAL WEAPON CHARGE

Re: United States v. Jonathan RANDO

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE -- United States Attorney Tom Colantuono, N.H. Attorney General Kelly Ayotte, Clifford Ellston, the Resident Agent in Charge of the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, and Nashua Police Chief Timothy Hefferan announced that **Jonathan RANDO**, 20, of Nashua, NH was convicted on November 29, 2004 of weapons possession charges.

RANDO was arrested by Nashua and New Hampshire Drug Task Force officers on May 13, 2004 as part of a marijuana distribution investigation in Nashua.

RANDO entered a guilty plea, before U.S. District Judge Steven McAuliffe, to an information alleging that he unlawfully possessed three semi-automatic firearms and ammunition in his former Eaton Street residence in Nashua on May 13, 2004. RANDO admitted habitual drug use to investigating detectives. Unlawful drug users are prohibited under federal law from possessing firearms.

Judge McAuliffe released RANDO to the supervision of the U.S. Department of Probation pending his sentencing hearing scheduled for March 21, 2005 in the U.S. District Court in Concord. RANDO faces a potential maximum sentence of 10 years imprisonment.

U.S. Attorney Colantuono stated, "This case demonstrates our Office's commitment to aggressively prosecuting drug traffickers, including the street-level marijuana dealers operating in Manchester and New Hampshire's other larger cities. This N.H. Drug Task Force investigation is a prime example of the effectiveness of cooperative efforts between federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies. This Office will continue to commit federal resources to these efforts."

— M O R E —

U.S. Attorney Colantuono also stated: “RANDO’s conviction also exemplifies this Office’s commitment to aggressive prosecution of the federal firearms laws as mandated by Attorney General Ashcroft’s “Project Safe Neighborhoods” initiative. Keeping firearms out of the hands of unlawful drug users and traffickers is one of our main objectives. This office will vigorously enforce the federal firearms laws as we continue to implement Project Safe Neighborhoods in the District of New Hampshire.”

Project Safe Neighborhoods is a federal program to reduce gun violence in New Hampshire by aggressive investigation and prosecution of firearm offenders, education of the public and training of law enforcement officers about firearms laws.

The conviction resulted from an investigation conducted by the N.H. Drug Task Force, the Nashua Police Department, and ATF. The prosecution is being handled by Assistant United States Attorney Joseph N. Laplante.